

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06011 191004Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 190737Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5188

S E C R E T SEOUL 6011

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FOR HABIB AND GLEYSTEN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR MASS KS US
SUBJ: COMPENSATORY ACTIONS -- WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS

SUMMARY. UNC HAS RECEIVED INFORMAL ADVICE THAT THE ISSUE OF
WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS (WRM) MIGHT BE SET ASIDE DURING FORTH-
COMING SCM. I THINK THIS ISSUE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO ROKG FOR
THAT APPROACH TO BE VIABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. ONE PROBLEM THAT APPEARS TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL ATTENTION
PRIOR TO SCM IS THAT OF WRM. THIS IS A COMPLEX ISSUE OF
GREAT PSYCHOLOGICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY IMPORTANCE, WHICH I
FEEL WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED FULLY DURING UPCOMING SCM.
THERE ARE BASICALLY TWO ASPECTS TO THE ISSUE. ONE IS A
MILITARY ONE WHICH REVOLVES AROUND THE QUESTION OF HAVING
SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION IN COUNTRY SO THAT THE FORWARD DEFENSE
CONCEPT CAN BE ADEQUATELY IMPLEMENTED. THIS IS A PROBLEM
THAT UNC AND JUSMAG ARE ADDRESSING ON A CONTINUING BASIS.

2. THE SECOND ISSUE WHICH IS BASICALLY PSYCHOLOGICAL/
POLITICAL, CENTERS ON THE QUESTION OF RAPID UTILIZATION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 06011 191004Z

OF THE STOCK SHOULD AN EMERGENCY ARISE. AT THE MOMENT,
FOR THE LACK OF ANY OTHER PROCEDURE, WE ARE ASSUMING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPEN-ENDED FMS CASE FOR THE PURCHASE
OF A WRM ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS. THIS OPEN-ENDED CASE
WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS ANNUALLY SO THAT THE 30-
DAY WAITING PERIOD COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ADVANCE OF
ANY EMERGENCY. NOT ONLY IS THIS A VERY AWKWARD APPROACH,

BUT IT IS ALSO LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS. FURTHERMORE, IT RAISES THE WHOLE ISSUE OF PAYMENT FOR THE WRM. ROKG REGARDS PROVISION OF WRM ON A COST-FREE BASIS AS A MAJOR TOUCHSTONE OF CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT. THEY FEEL THAT U.S. OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN FORCES INVOLVES A CERTAIN U.S. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING THE WHEREWITHAL FOR THE BATTLE. THIS ISSUE WAS REVIEWED AGAIN IN THE RECENT COMMAND POST EXERCISE, ULCHI-FOCUS/LENS, AND THE US-ROK DIFFERENCES ON THIS ISSUE WERE RECONFIRMED. THE ROKG OBJECTED STRONGLY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF PAYING FOR AMMUNITION AND EQUIPMENT THAT WAS USED DURING THE EXERCISE FOR WHAT THEY ENVISIONED AS A STRUGGLE FOR A COMMON INTEREST.

3. I SUGGEST THAT AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT APPROACH BE TAKEN TO THIS ISSUE. I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE PROVIDED AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER WRM TO THE ROKG AT A NO-COST BASIS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. NOT ONLY WOULD THIS AVOID THE COMPLICATED PROCESS WE ARE NOW CONTEMPLATING, BUT WOULD ALSO BE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ROK. NUMEROUS KOREANS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE WAR POWERS ACT OR THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY BE AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE AUTOMATIC U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CASE OF A CONFLICT. THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE UNACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, GIVING THE PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO TURN OVER WRM IN CASE OF EMERGENCY,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SEOUL 06011 191004Z

WOULD PROVIDE COMPARABLE EVIDENCE OF U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS ABILITY TO RESPOND QUICKLY IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT TIME MAY NOT NOW PERMIT THE COMPLETION OF ALL PRELIMINARY WORK FOR THE DRAFTING OF NECESSARY LEGISLATION ON THIS SUBJECT. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE SCM BE FULLY PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE AND TO INDICATE WHAT SOLUTIONS MIGHT BE FOUND WHICH WILL SATISFY ROKG'S OBJECTIVES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 835f9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1817374
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMPENSATORY ACTIONS -- WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS SUMMARY. UNC HAS RECEIVED INFORMAL ADVICE THAT THE ISSUE OF WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS (WRM) MIGHT BE SET ASI DE DURI
TAGS: MARR, MASS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/835f9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009